

## Intelligence and the Coordinator

Our tentative assessment is that President Carter has made a good choice in nominating Adm. Stansfield Turner to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency and, in the same capacity, to serve as coordinator of all U.S. intelligence activities.

The tentativeness stems only from the fact that there is nothing in the public record yet to indicate how Turner feels about such things as covert overseas operations by the CIA, assuring the accountability of the CIA to appropriate elected officials, and obtaining closer cooperation, while avoiding undue duplication of functions, among the various intelligence-gathering arms of government.

There is nothing in the record because no one has yet publicly asked Turner for his views. That will come when he appears before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which must pass on his nomination as the first step toward Senate confirmation.

What is in the public record about Turner is impressive. His academic and service achievements show that he is a man of considerable intellectual

vigor and breadth. He has been, since his 1946 graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, director of systems analysis for the Navy, president of the Naval War College, and commander in chief of Allied forces in Southern Europe.

In a career where conformity and caution are often the surest routes to promotion, Turner has become known for his independent-mindedness, imaginativeness, and insistence on rigorous thinking about strategic problems and the need for the services to adapt to changing international situations. He is not, like some of his colleagues, a "quantifier" who gauges military power only in terms of numbers of men and weapons available, but a "qualifier" who views military effectiveness by the standard of whether the missions assigned can be carried out with the forces available.

Turner gives the appearance of a man who always asks tough questions and settles only for thoughtful and supportable answers. That is not the least of the qualifications that a director of central intelligence should have.